



Communication of the Presidency West Coast Model EU 2016

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Regulatory Protection and Sustainable Development

The European Union (EU) and the United States (US) are working together in order to promote greater levels of trade, regulatory oversight, and sustainable development. The Presidency of the European Council, together with the Dutch Presidency (the Presidency), is working to promote meaningful economic growth that will encourage green industries both foreign and domestic, ensure the sustainable governance of industry, and establish a joint oversight body. Such a body will have uniform regulations to limit the barriers to entry faced by many businesses. To reach this goal, the Presidency has already worked to open a dialogue between the requisite EU components and the US concerning what regulations need to be changed. Improvements need to be made in the area of finance, mobility, licensing, safety standards, and several other areas. **The Presidency hereby sets fourth two new agenda items to be discussed at the summit.** First, we seek to **establish a court system** that will ensure the equal enforcement and implementation of policies between the EU and the US, as well as settle investment disputes. Such a court system will enable better competition between EU member states and the US. Second, the EU and the US should **remove all tariffs and trade quotas** in order to establish further competition and cooperation between European and American firms. The Presidency believes that further cooperation and competition will lead to more sustainable growth and prosperity in the EU, the US, and throughout the globe through common regulations, increased income, and therefore increased trade with non-EU and US countries.



The refugee and asylum crisis in Europe:
European Solidarity or Separation?

The Syrian Civil War began during the Arab Spring protests March 2011 and resulted in the displacement of 10.9 million Syrians,¹ of which 3.8 million have become refugees.² Migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are seeking asylum in the EU, with 626,000 asylum applications to EU member states in 2014, the highest number since 1992.³ Germany, Sweden, Italy and France have accepted over two-thirds of the EU's asylum applications, serving as the primary destinations for refugees who enter the Schengen Area. Since the start of the refugee crisis, there has been a divergence between member states on how to properly deal with the influx. **The EU is calling for cooperation between member states in two areas.** The first agenda item for discussion is a **reform of the Dublin regulation**, passed in February 2003, which stipulated that one country is held responsible for processing and providing asylum for refugees and created a fingerprint database for all unauthorized entrants to the EU. Countries on the outer edges of the Schengen Area have received a disproportionate amount of applications from migrants seeking asylum and argue that they do not have the resources necessary to provide for the migrants as specified in the Dublin Regulation. The EU has also launched a military campaign known as Operation Sophia in an attempt to neutralize refugee smuggling routes in the Mediterranean. On 20 April 2015, the European Commission proposed a ten-point plan to alleviate the crisis.⁴ Chancellor Merkel has proposed **a quota system** in an effort to promote collective responsibility for refugees among the member states. This plan, however, does not address countries that are not part of the Schengen Area, like the United Kingdom. The Presidency recommends revisiting the Dublin Regulation, reforming it to include all EU member states and setting a process for better enforcement. Then the EU should facilitate an agreement among member states concerning the best proportion of migrants to be accepted by each member states. Only true unity and solidarity within the EU will lead to a proper resolution of this crisis.

¹ "What's left of Syria?" *Al-jazeera*, 17 March 2015.

² "Syria crisis: Number of refugees rises to 200, 000," *BBC News*, 24 August 2012.

³ "Asylum statistics," *EUROSTAT*, 21 May 2015.

⁴ "Joint Foreign and Home Affairs Council: Ten point action plan on migration," *European Commission*, 20 April 2015.